

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 XMB-07 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 MC-02 COME-00

IGA-02 AID-20 /153 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ W: JKBISHOP: MB

4/13/73 EXT 28436

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OASD/ ISA - COL. R. WALTES

PM/ MAS: MR. J. MADDEN

J5: CAPT. CONNELLEY

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R 141910 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USCINCEUR

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E. O. 11652: 12/31/79

TAGS: MASS, EAID, EIND, ETRN, PFOR, GH

SUBJECT: GOG INTEREST IN PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT
AND AIRCRAFT

REF: A) ACCRA 1839

B) STATE 60972

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ABIDJAN FOR AIRA

1. GOG MAY BE INFORMED THAT STATE AND DOD HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THEIR REQUEST REF. A. EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING TO EXPLAIN USG REPLY TO INDIVIDUAL ITEM REQUESTS.
2. SUBJECT OF WEBBING WAS COVERED BY REF. B.
3. USG DOES NOT HAVE SUITABLE SURPLUS FIXED WINGED TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE WHICH GHANA COULD PURCHASE. GOG PURCHASE OF FIXED WING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE TO BE A COMMERCIAL PURCHASE WITHOUT DIRECT USG ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SURPLUS HELICOPTERS AVAILABLE. AFTER INITIAL PURCHASE ON A CASH BASIS FROM DOD, BOTH WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR OVERHAUL BY PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THE CH-34 WOULD INVOLVE INITIAL PURCHASE COST OF DOLS 37,629 AND OVERHAUL COST OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 380,000 FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF DOLS 417,629 EACH. THE HH-43 INITIAL COST, APPROXIMATE OVERHAUL COST, AND TOTAL ESTIMATED COST WOULD BE DOLS 41,470, 58,000 AND 99,470, EACH RESPECTIVELY.
4. THE OVERHAUL OF THE CH-34 WOULD INCLUDE INSTALLATION OF TWO TURBINE ENGINES INSTEAD OF THE ONE PISTON ENGINE CURRENTLY INSTALLED ON T AIRCRAFT. THIS INSTALLATION PROVIDES FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY AND RELIABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN SAR MISSIONS AND ESPECIALLY OVER WATER AND IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR THIS AIRCRAFT. THE CH-34 CAN BE USED FOR MANY MISSIONS, I. E., SAR, PASSENGER, CARGO, ETC. ALTHOUGH A MOST RELIABLE AIRCRAFT, THE HH-43 IS MORE RESTRICTED IN LOAD AND PASSENGER CAPABILITY BUT IS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY FOR SAR, OBSERVATION AND VIP PASSENGER MISSIONS.
5. IN OUR EXPERIENCE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT EXCEPT WHEN PROPERLY REHABILITATED REQUIRES EXTENSIVE MAINTENANCE TO KEEP IT OPERABLE, AND IN ABSENCE OF RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED REPAIR/ MAINTENANCE FACILITIES MOST OFTEN IS NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE OR EXPENSE INVOLVED. SINCE THE TOTAL COST OF ONE OF THESE SURPLUS HELICOPTERS APPROACHES THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COST OF MANY NEW PRODUCTION HELICOPTERS, GOG MAY BE MORE

INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF NEW AIRCRAFT. THIS WOULD OPEN UP AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT GROUPING OF HELICOPTERS, RANGING FROM A UH-1 H (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 400,000) TO THE CH-3 C (APPROXIMATELY DOSL 2.1 MILLION) OR THE CH-53 C (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 3.2 MILLION) AND THE MANY OTHER CIVILIAN VERSIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH COMMERCIAL CASH OR PRIVATE CREDIT SALES.

6. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY ESTIMATE THAT USG FINANCING SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL DEBT ISSUE ON WAY TO RESOLUTION. IN ANY EVENT, AS REGARDS FMS CREDIT ALL REMAINING FY 73 CREDIT IS COMMITED AND GHANA IS NOT PROGRAMED FOR FMS CREDIT IN FY 74. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO ASSIST GOG IN SUBJECT US SALES, THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE ON A CASH OR PRIVATE COMMERCIAL CREDIT BASIS. GOG IS WELCOME TO TRY TO ARRANGE FINANCING THROUGH US COMMERCIAL SOURCES, ALTHOUGH RELUCTANCE AND HIGH RATES SHOULD BE EXPECTED, AT LEAST UNTIL GOG DEBT SETTLEMENT REACHED.

7. ABILITY OF EXIM TO FINANCE SALES OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS TO GHANA DEPENDS ON PRECISE DEFINITIONS OF:
1) TYPE OF AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTER; 2) PURPOSES FOR WHICH AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WILL BE USED; 3) AUTHORITY BY WHICH AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WILL BE OPERATED. AVAILABLE INFORMATION, WHICH INDICATES AIRCRAFT TO BE EMPLOYED

BY GOG MILITARY AS TROOP TRANSPORTS, OR FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, SUGGEST EXIM WOULD NOT BE ABLE FINANCE AIRCRAFT SALE. POSSIBILITY OF EXIM FINANCING FOR HELICOPTERS WOULD BE ENHANCED IF TYPE HELICOPTER SELECTED WERE CLEARLY CIVILIAN, I. E. NOT ON MUNITIONS CONTROL LIST, AND IF IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT HELICOPTERS WERE TO HAVE PURELY CIVIL FUNCTIONS, E. G. TRANSPORT OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS OR CROP DUSTING, EVEN IF FLOWN BY MILITARY PILOTS WITH OCCASIONAL MILITARY PASSENGERS.

8. IN RESPONDING TO ASHLEY- LASSEN, EMBASSY REQUESTED EMPHASIZE THAT ANY CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AVAILABILITY U. S. GOVERNMENT CREDITS FOR PROPOSED PURCHASES WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINGENT, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, ON RESOLUTION GHANA'S PRESENT DEBT RESCHEDULING PROBLEMS. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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